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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BRASILIA 000559

SIPDIS

DEPT PASS USAID TO LAC/RSD, LAC/SAM, G/ENV, PPC/ENV

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [SENV](#) [EAGR](#) [FAID](#) [TBIO](#) [ECON](#) [SOCI](#) [XR](#) [BR](#)

SUBJECT: CONSORTIUM MEMBERS CELEBRATE INITIAL SUCCESS OF THE ANDEAN AMAZON CONSERVATION INITIATIVE (ICAA)

REF: 2008 BRASILIA 770

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¶1. The South America Regional Environmental HUB Office attended the Third Annual Meeting of the Andean Amazon Conservation Initiative (ICAA) in Bogota, Colombia, April 19-25. These annual conferences bring together more than twenty partner organizations of this USAID-funded initiative to exchange experiences and lessons learned.

(REFTEL) This conference gathered together over 80 people from Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, as well as other international experts.

¶2. Consortium members stated that the initiative has been successful so far and are optimistic about the future of this regional program. This year's meeting focused on the impacts of the financial crisis on conservation projects; the threat of infrastructure development to isolated indigenous populations and protected areas; the effects of climate change on Andean countries; impact of informal mining on water resources; and the protection of Indigenous intellectual property.

¶3. The purpose of this exchange is to increase regional collaboration to support the efforts of the indigenous populations and local communities in conserving biodiversity, using sustainably their natural resources, and valuing environmental services in the Andean Amazon. Especially important were the working sessions on indigenous issues, financial strategies for conservation, policy, and capacity-building.

¶4. The move of the HUB from Brasilia to Lima this summer was welcomed by environmental organizations such as Wildlife

Conservation Society (WCS) and the Peruvian Society for Environmental Law (SPDA).

15. The HUB (contact StonerLA@state.gov) can provide those interested with links to the following presentations made at the conference:

Indigenous Issues

--Indigenous populations in voluntary isolation: human rights and industry
--Indigenous people of the Peruvian Amazon and the challenges faced
--Protection of Traditional Knowledge

Financial strategies

--General overview and opportunities for the Andean Amazon
--Integrated analysis of environmental services
--Challenges for estimating deforestation rates for REDD negotiations

Policies

--Dialogue on policies
--Strategic Environmental Evaluations
--Progress of the Mega-infrastructure projects monitoring group in the region of Ucayali (Peru)
--Infrastructure and impacts on indigenous populations: the

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experience of the Cofan tribe (Ecuador).

SOBEL